

MOUNDS, MYSTERIES AND MARKETING — A HISTORY OF WICKLIFFE MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Presented by Carla Hildebrand, Park manager of Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

The archaeological site of Mississippian Indian mounds in Wickliffe, Kentucky, has fascinated and intrigued visitors and archaeologists for over eighty years. First opened in 1932 by Paducah businessman, Fain King, the site has gone through various transitions, challenges, hundreds of thousands of visitors and is still open to the public as a valuable educational resource. Carla Hildebrand, park manager of the Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site will present an overview of the sites' history, mysteries and tourism through the decades.



IRVIN S. COBB: RENOWNED JOURNALIST, POPULAR AUTHOR OF SHORT FICTION, AND ALWAYS PADUCAH'S NATIVE SON

presented by Andrew Halford, Professor Emeritus, West Kentucky Community and Technical College

In June 2014, Paducah will celebrate the 138th Anniversary of the birth of Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb, one of Paducah's most famous native sons. Actually, Cobb wrote, "I would rather be born a homeless orphan in Paducah, Kentucky, than duly certified twins anywhere else on earth." Important words for this journalist who covered WWI with some of the best first hand reports from behind German lines and who was the most popular writer of short fiction, often in competition with F. Scott Fitzgerald. He never forgot his Paducah roots.



JULY 24

MOUNDS AND PRIESTS, CATHEDRALS AND POPES: WAS WICKLIFFE A NATIVE AMERICAN CATHEDRAL TOWN IN AD 1250?

presented by Dr. Kit Wesler, professor of archaeology at Murray State University

Native Americans were building mounds in western Kentucky at the same time as Europeans were building cathedrals.

The Mississippian culture of the Mississippi Valley (AD 800-1400) is defined by sites like Wickliffe, in Ballard County, and Cahokia, Illinois, which shared a culture, a symbolic art, and religious architecture, which we recognize as mounds. Christian Europe can also be defined by a shared culture, symbolic art, and religious architecture (churches and cathedrals). Kit Wesler, professor of archaeology at Murray State University, will talk about his research on the archaeology of medieval cathedrals and Medieval Christendom and how he thinks that comparing Europe to the Mississippian culture is a challenge to typical archaeological thought.



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